

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on May 5, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of the subject matter of claims 1-6. Claims 1-6 and 19-43 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. Claims 7-18 have been canceled. Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly claim the subject matter in Applicants' invention. New claims 19-43 have been added. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,206,504 and in view of Sakura et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,641,147. A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed and overcomes the double patenting rejection. Also enclosed is the required Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b). Accordingly, withdrawal of the double patenting rejection and formal allowance of claims 1-6 is respectfully requested.

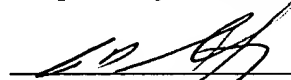
Claims 7-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 7-18 have been canceled without prejudice, thus the rejection is now moot.

New claims 19-31 relate to a method of converting a full color image to a two color image for printing by a thermal printer, and are believed to be supported by the specification as filed. Claims 32-40 relate to apparatus for converting a full color image to a two color image and are believed to be supported by the specification as filed. Claims 41-43 relate to a computer memory device storing program code for conversion of a full color image to a two color image for printing, and are believed to be supported by the specification as filed. See, e.g., page 4, lines 15-19, which indicate that the conversion of the image from the host system (full color image) to commands that the printer can understand (two color image) can be accomplished by a driver that can be implemented in hardware, software, or a combination thereof. Each of the new claims is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the above discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

In view of the above, entry of the present amendment and reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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